

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 were previously pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicant is canceling claim 14 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-13 and 15-20 have been amended. No claims are added. Claim 21 remains unchanged. Claims 1-13 and 15-21 remain pending.

35 U.S.C. § 101 Rejections

Claims 1-7 and 15-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 for being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1-7 and 15-20 have been amended to overcome this rejection. Claim 21 depends from amended claim 20 and, as a result, is now allowable.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 1-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over (Grobelnik et al. or “Noise-IPD Game Contest” or Brown) in view of (Honda et al. or Saar). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

Claim 1 has been amended and now recites “In a computer-readable medium, software objects of a social dilemma virtual world environment for evaluating an interactive online society of plural participants. . . .” The software objects comprise “one or more social dilemma exercise objects that, when executed on a computer, implement a social dilemma exercise between the participants and logs social factors and interface factors that can be evaluated to determine a level of success of the social dilemma exercise” and “one or more computer-based communication objects that, when executed on a computer, selectively provide computer-based communication between participants in the social dilemma exercise.

Claim 1 describes a social dilemma exercise that provide inter-participant communication that can be logged to evaluate the success of the social dilemma exercise based on the inter-participant communication. It is a common intuition that communication leads to more cooperative online relationships. Claim 1 defines a manner in which the communication and cooperation can be monitored to determine

if one level of communication between participants increases the success of the social dilemma exercise as to the participants.

None of the cited references teach or suggest means to evaluate the effect of communication between participants in a social dilemma exercise. Therefore, claim 1 is allowable over the cited references and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 2 – 7 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are therefore allowable over the cited references for at least this reason. The rejection of these claims should therefore be withdrawn.

Claim 8 has been amended to recite a method of evaluating online interactive communications. The method comprises the steps of “selecting a first set of social factors and interface factors in a distributed social dilemma exercise,” “selecting a second set of social factors and interface factors in the social distributed social dilemma exercise, at least one of the factors in the first and second sets being different,” and “conducting for plural participants, at least one social dilemma exercise utilizing the first and second set of factors.” Claim 8 further recites that the results of the social dilemma exercise are logged so that the effect of the existence of the different factors can be evaluated.

Claim 8 describes a method for conducting a social dilemma exercise between multiple participants and varying social factors and interface factors between the participants. The effect on the success of the exercise can be correlated to the differences in the social and interface factors.

None of the cited references or a combination thereof teaches or suggests such a method. The references merely describe either a social exercise or a distributed computing exercise. The method recited in claim 8 allows for evaluating the effect that variance of different factors has on the outcome of a social dilemma exercise.

Accordingly, claim 8 is allowable over the cited references and the rejection thereof should be withdrawn.

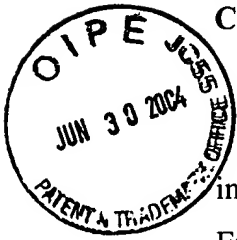
Claims 9 – 13 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 8. For at least this reason, these claims are allowable over the cited references and the rejection of these claims should be withdrawn.

Claim 15 has been amended and now recites an online interactive communications evaluation system. The system includes steps of “selecting a first set of social factors and interface factors in a distributed social dilemma exercise,” “selecting a second set of social factors and interface factors in the social distributed social dilemma exercise, at least one of the factors in the first and second sets being different,” “conducting for plural participants, at least one social dilemma exercise utilizing the first and second set of factors” and “logging results of the social dilemma exercise so that the effect of the existence of the different factors can be evaluated.”

Similar to the previous discussion, claim 15 relates to evaluating communication factors between participants in a social dilemma exercise and determining the effects of the communication factors on the outcome of the social dilemma exercise.

For the same reasons recited above, the cited references do not teach or suggest the elements recited in claim 15. Accordingly, claim 15 is allowable over the references and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 16 – 21 depend from claim 15, either directly or indirectly. As a result, these claims are allowable at least by virtue of that dependency. Therefore, the rejection of these claims should be withdrawn.

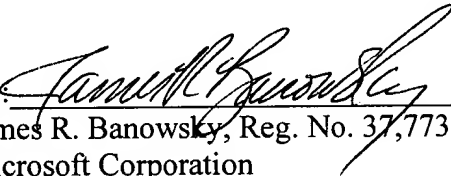


CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to call the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, please charge any deficiency to **Deposit Account No. 50-0463**.

Respectfully submitted,
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Docket No. 124231.02 (changed from 1026-012/MMM) under separate cover
Dated: 6/30/04